

October 30, 2013

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Dean Maraldo
Chief, Water Enforcement and Compliance Branch
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

WATER ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE
ASSURANCE BRANCH, EPA, REGION 5

Re: Alternatives Analysis Revision
Pursuant to Docket No. V-W-12-AO-08

Dear Mr. Maraldo:

This letter is the Town of Griffith's response to your letter dated September 24, 2013 addressed to me, as Town Council President.

Griffith's April 9, 2013 revised alternative analysis response was predicated on negotiating with the Sanitary District of Hammond (SDH) for additional capacity. Since that letter, the negotiations with SDH have come to a complete halt. On August 28, 2013, without notice or warning, the SDH notified Griffith that they had cancelled the contract between SDH and Griffith. A copy of the letter to Griffith announcing the contract cancellation and the Resolution are attached.

Needless to say, Griffith was shocked and dismayed by SDH's unilateral actions. Griffith was forced to immediately file a lawsuit against SDH challenging their actions. It is important to note that SDH took the same unilateral action against Highland and Whiting, and those entities have also filed suits against SDH.

Since it was obvious that SDH had no intention to pursue a negotiated resolution, our proposed alternative analysis no longer presents viable alternatives, and Griffith was forced to develop a new strategy. As a result, Griffith began negotiations with the Sanitary District for the City of Gary for them to treat all of Griffith's sanitary waste.


Since capacity is not an issue with Gary Sanitary, there will be no need to build another equalization basin. Griffith instructed its engineers to do an estimate of the cost to modify the Cline Avenue pump station and to install a force main to Gary. Attached is our engineer's Conceptual Planning Report and rough cost estimate. To date, the information obtained by the engineers seems to indicate that the costs of sending all sanitary waste to Gary will be feasible. Accordingly, the Town of Griffith would like to develop this as an alternative to propose to EPA for approval.

The next step following the Conceptual Planning Report will be to develop the engineering for the improvements and the construction and installation of a force main to Gary. It is anticipated that the

engineering portion will take nine months to one year. In addition, it will take approximately that long to obtain the various easements that will be required from property owners, utilities, and the railroads. Upon completion of this work, we would submit the plan to have Gary Sanitary treat all of the Town of Griffith's sanitary waste as our recommended alternative to meet the requirements of paragraph 22 of the above-referenced compliance order. As we are developing the engineering analysis, cost estimation, and implementation schedule, Griffith will provide you with updates every 60 days. Please confirm that this approach is satisfactory to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In closing, I believe it is important to stress that Griffith's Town Council is 100% committed to eliminate SSOs as soon as possible while remaining good stewards of its citizens' tax money.

Sincerely,


Glen Gaby
Town Council President
Town of Griffith, Indiana

Enclosures

cc: Mary Hoover, IDEM
Mary Hollingsworth, IDEM